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VII is a cissoid which has its cusp at the vertex of the parabola and whose asymptote is the asymptote of (11).

THEOREM IX. *The parabola* $y^2 = 4ax$ *is the curvilinear diameter of the cubic* (11).

The proofs of theorems VIII and IX offer no difficulty and are therefore omitted.

HONOR TO PROFESSOR E. H. MOORE.

By H. E. SLAUGHT, University of Chicago.

At the two hundred twenty-second regular meeting of the American Mathematical Society, held at the University of Chicago April 14, 15, 1922, there was celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Chicago Section of this Society. The history of this Chicago Section is almost coincident with that of the University of Chicago where the great majority of its forty-nine meetings have been held. These meetings, which began in 1896 with the reading of fourteen scientific papers at the first informal session, gradually increased in attendance and importance until they were recognized by the Society as of coordinate standing with those of the parent organization in New York and were officially designated as regular Western meetings of the Society. The one just held was the seventeenth and largest of this kind, over one hundred members being in attendance.

The young and vigorous department of mathematics of the University of Chicago in 1896, with its remarkable trio of leaders, Professors E. H. Moore, Oskar Bolza, and Heinrich Maschke, naturally assumed the important rôle of leadership in fostering mathematical research in the Middle West, as reflected in the phenomenal growth of the Chicago Section. To those who know Professor Moore scientifically and personally, it is no surprise that he at once became, and still remains, the leader of leaders in this great work. It is universally recognized that he stands quite alone as regards the scope and strength of his influence on the development of mathematics in America, not only through his own researches but also through his impress upon the hundred and more men and women who have gone out with the Chicago doctorate in mathematics, upon the hundreds of Chicago masters and other graduate students, and upon all others who have directly or indirectly come within his dynamic presence and captivating friendship.

It was a foregone conclusion that any celebration of the last quarter of a century of mathematical activity in this country would center about Professor Moore, and hence a committee of his former students began more than a year ago to consider what kind of a testimonial would be most appropriate to present to him on this occasion. It was at once decided that none of the ordinary forms of gold or silver gifts, nor even a painted portrait, would adequately express the sentiments of his grateful admirers. They sought rather some token which would for all time be a living and dynamic force for perpetuating his name in connection with his beloved science. Hence they decided to raise the sum of two thousand dollars among his former students and his associates in the Chicago Section, as the nucleus of an endowment fund to be used for assisting in the publication of mathematical treatises and researches in America,—a cause for which there is crying need of support. (Already those outside of this Chicago group are seeking to join in contributing to this fund and there are indications that it may grow into an endowment of large proportions as the years go by.)

However, the committee in their deliberations did not lose sight of the personal and friendly elements involved in these contributions, and hence they prepared a statement setting these forth in intimate terms as a prologue to the dedication of the fund. This Presentation Scroll was engrossed by Mr. C. L. Ricketts of Chicago in the style of the illuminated manuscripts of the Italian Renaissance, on the finest hand-made paper that can be produced, and bound in beautiful maroon leather surmounted by a solid gold monogram of the letters E H M. It was felt by the committee that nothing short of the very best in material and workmanship would suffice for this Presentation Scroll, and it is believed that no other illuminator in America could have excelled in the result produced. The Scroll contains the names of one hundred seventy-four contributors to the fund.

The following is the text of the Scroll:

TO PROFESSOR ELIAKIM HASTINGS MOORE,
SCHOLAR, TEACHER AND FRIEND:

Conscious of the great influence which you have exercised upon the development of mathematical science throughout this country, particularly in the Middle West, during the last twenty-five years,

Admiring the outstanding qualities of your researches in various fields of mathematics,

Grateful for the inspiration and encouragement which you have given to those who have come to the University of Chicago to study mathematics,

Recognizing the large contribution which you have made to the creation and the growth of the Chicago Section of the American Mathematical Society, and

Deeply appreciative of the friendship which, during many years, you have bestowed upon those who have had the good fortune to know you;

The undersigned members of the American Mathematical Society, formerly students of mathematics at the University of Chicago, or members of long standing in the Chicago Section, have wished to use the opportunity afforded by the twenty-fifth anniversary meeting of the Chicago Section to present to you a testimonial, which is intended to link your name in the years to come with the development of mathematics in this country.

To this end they have contributed to a fund which is to be offered for trusteeship to the American Mathematical Society upon the following conditions:

The fund is to be known as the Eliakim Hastings Moore Fund;

The interest on the fund is to be used at the discretion of the Council of the

Society, and upon the recommendation of a committee appointed from time to time for this purpose, in furtherance of such mathematical interests as

(*a*) The publication of important mathematical books and memoirs,

(*b*) The award of prizes for important contributions to mathematics;

It being further recommended that during the next ten years preference be given to the former and that publication of Professor Moore's researches in General Analysis or in other fields shall have precedence over all other claims.

The fund is to be kept intact by the American Mathematical Society except in so far as it is used to aid in the publication of Professor Moore's researches. For this special purpose a part of the principal, not exceeding one third, may be used, provided the interest on the remainder be allowed to accumulate until the fund has been restored to its original value.

(Here follow the names of 174 contributors.)

CHICAGO, April 25, 1922.

AMONG MY AUTOGRAPHS.

By DAVID EUGENE SMITH, Columbia University.

24. SIR WILLIAM ROWAN HAMILTON AND THE EARLY DAYS OF QUATERNIONS.

It is well known that Sir William Rowan Hamilton (1805–1865) was one of the world's infant prodigies. Professor Alexander Macfarlane tells us of his considerable advancement in arithmetic at the age of three, of his ability to read Latin, Greek, and Hebrew at the age of five, and of his intimate familiarity with Italian, Sanskrit, and Arabic at the age of ten. At twelve he was contesting with Zerah Colburn, the American "calculating boy," and at sixteen he was reading Laplace's *Mécanique Céleste* and pointing out an error in the work of the great French master. He was thirty-eight, however, before he discovered the underlying principles of quaternions and it was not until 1853, ten years later, that he published his lectures on the subject. These lectures, in their initial form, were delivered at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1848.

The letter which follows was written in 1847 and has considerable interest in that it shows Hamilton's scientific activities at this time and refers to the monographs on quaternions which he had already published.

The letter, now in my collection, was written to Dr. James Booth and is as follows:

OBS^{Y} DUBLIN
March 5th, 1847

My dear Sir

Your note, dated the 12th of January, with its interesting accompaniments, did not reach me till a day or two ago,—which is the cause of its not having been sooner acknowledged. Allow me, as some return, to request your acceptance of my last contribution to the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy. There are, I think, some other papers of mine, of later date than any which you are likely to have seen—at least than any which I can have given you in 1845, as I printed several little things last year, availing myself so of the increased leisure gained by my retirement from the chair of the Academy. If, at *your* leisure, you will tell me the date of the last paper of mine on quaternions in your possession, I will try whether I cannot make your set